

That Well Dressed Women Will Wear

Crime Rittenhouse

SUMMER FROCKS GAY DESPITE DEMAND OF WAR SIMPLICITY

Organdy and Calico Used, but Frills, Fichus and Picture Hats Give Effects of Fluffiness

THE radicals are at it again. They are agitating for the standardization of equal importance with the conservation of food. Rumors of frocks all alike, cut by the millions and placed on the market for the Colonel's lady and Judge O'Grady, so that they may become sisters in their attire as well as under their skins, reach us from time to time.

Sometimes the arguments are quite learned. The French Revolution is freely cited as being responsible for the standardization of men's dress. To be sure, one of the first things that Napoleon did, when he reached the position of being able to set the fashion, was to make men's clothes as gorgeous and as complex as they had been before the abolition of the Bourbons. But the effect was not long. Sans culottism had taken too firm a hold on men's affections. They soon went back to that dignified but ugly garment, the long trousers, and they have remained faithful to them ever since.

Students of the history of costume cite this as an example, and tell us some hopefully, some regretfully, that the present Armageddon will do the same for women. But then comes the human nature back of the clothes, rather than of the clothes themselves, and they give an emphasis to the whole proposition.

The standardization of women's dress has gone as far now as it ever will, is their contention.

They concede the fact that the manifold occupations which the war has opened to women may and probably will do a great deal toward breaking down the prejudice which has hitherto existed against the betrayal of one's profession in one's dress. One of the salient features of metropolitan life is that all the shopgirls and stenographers try to look like women of leisure; that the maid will imitate her mistress on her Sunday off, and that, in short, no woman is willing to concede that the motley of her means of livelihood is the only wear.

Uniforms Not for Women.

Uniforms, which various branches of the new industries for women are adopting for the duration of the war, will go far toward getting us over this feminine idea. Man has never bothered much about it. A doctor is perfectly willing that his black coat, his white shirt and his silk hat should advertise his medical degree to all beholders. Painters still dress in white, though surely that is the most impractical thing they could do. Costumiers wear their horrible black trousers to garden in at home, careless of what the neighbors may think of it. And so it goes.

Very busy women—and what other kind is there at present?—may make insistent demands for clothes that are easy to get into. "Easily adjusted, Madam," will sell more gowns this season than the catch phrase, "This is what they're wearing."

Coats and suits and one piece dresses will maintain their popularity; shirtwaists that launder like a man's shirt will refuse to be ousted. But there will always be more variety in women's dress than there is in men's, and women as a whole will continue to be more preoccupied with the question of whether they shall be clothed.

One reason for the continuance of variety in feminine attire, in spite of wars and rumors of wars, is the fact that women as a whole are rested by a change of occupation. So the business woman on her return from her office is quite willing to sit down to stocking darning, so that she may continue to wear the threadbare hose in which her heart delights; she sits up late to run ribbons in her lingerie; she will wash out and iron her own neckwear in order that she may make her serge suit or frock more becoming by softening it with frills at the throat.

Man's Summer Clothes.

Did any one ever hear of the man who washed his own collar? He will polish his own shoes—tradition says that he will perform this operation more willingly and often than any woman; he will brush his clothes, but there his sartorial measures of preparedness end. So he is naturally restricted to a form of garment which is easily kept in order.

Another reason is the average man's insensibility to change in temperature, at least from the woman's point of view. He declares that there is a vast difference in warmth between his winter weight blue serge and his summer weight, but no woman can see it.

To her he is a mystery as he goes to his office on a boiling August morning in New York, clad completely in wool, with a high starched collar round his neck and thick leather shoes on his feet. Just as great a mystery is she to him in winter, with her georgette sleeves, thin stockings and paper-soled pumps. Probably it is six of one and half a dozen of the other.

"At least," says the woman, "I do change the fabric of my garments to suit the season."

But though the man's response to this is a scornful "Summer furs!" yet in the main it is true that she does so, and he does not. An increasingly large number of men are wearing pinstripes and other light tissues in the tor-



Ostrich feather trimming on a biscuit colored Georgette wrap in an old fashioned shape.

rid weather, but the difficulty of keeping such things in order and the fatal facility with which they wrinkle keep the great majority of men from indulging in them.

But there is an army of women who go clothed in cotton and linen from May to October; who will pay extravagant laundry bills if they live in the city; who will travel with an electric iron in their trunk when they visit the country; who will pay almost any price in time, money and convenience for the privilege of wearing thin clothes throughout the dog days.

There is a great army of women who still, in spite of war work, make their own summer frocks, by the aid of a tissue paper pattern. There is another even larger group who solve six months dressmaking problems by buying gingham and muslin and hiring the services of a dressmaker by the day.

Are all these women going to be bound down by standardization? Of course not.

Besides the feminine failing of buying a thing, not because one needs it, but because it is cheap, to which the makers of summer fabrics have always catered, there is the eternal fascination of the materials themselves, their sympathetic surfaces, their freshness, their delicious color.

Don't suppose that a mere war is going to make women lose sight of the advantage that a harmonious color scheme in dress can give them. As a sex women have more feeling for color than men, they respond to it more quickly, they understand how to adapt it to practical uses better and they certainly spend more time studying it in its relation to their complexions.

There is here and there an adventurous male soul who dares indulge his color sense in his shirts, socks and ties, but he is one of the most popular targets for the genius of the comic artist and the shrapnel of the paragrapher. Millions of masculine necks in this vast country are encircled with the same brand of white, shiny collar, no matter what the color of that neck may be. Sombre shades of blue,



Pink and blue calico frock, with sash of blue organdy and poke bonnet.

brown, gray and here and there a timid green are preempted by the tailors as men's wear colors, and he is a brave spirit who dares transgress the rule.

To women, however, the whole range of a future palette is free. Let her take due thought for her hair and her complexion and she may put together any shades she pleases. While we were under the influence of the Russian ballet her fancy certainly was as untrammelled as a bird in the blue; some women were walking rainbows.

This year we are more discreet. Brilliant tones are still to be seen, but the general feeling is one of moderation in all things, even in color. The gaudy shades are reserved for legitimate sports clothes or for use in accentuating notes of the costume, so small and insignificant in themselves that only a keen eye notices them at all.

Fabrics, too, are discreet. Very popular are net, foulard and organdy. One may be gay in foulard, it is true, but one's frock is more apt to be navy

blue or black or gray. Organdy is subtle in its color range, not striking, and the clothes that we construct of it have an atmosphere of "old timesness" far removed from anything so smoldering, dashing, as the Russian ballet color combinations.

In less expensive fabrics, which are among the few things that remain within the reach of the woman of modest budget, there are the printed voiles, the ever popular gingham, and the season's revival, calico or percale, to give it the name under which it is sold in most places.

Several sketches on this page show adaptations of these materials. Organdy is used for the clever, transferable fichu shown in one of the sketches. Here is a revival from Watteau times, which gives an invaluable hint for the freshening of last summer's tub dresses, which were too severe for this season's fancy.

Transformable Hats.

The hat has borrowed some of the same material. Though its origin is of straw, the mushroom crown, which might have been taken from a La Tour pastel, is of organdy. A very clever milliner showed some hats this spring which were transformable, that is to say, they had crowns and brims which one could take apart and combine again in great variety. A white silk brim could be worn with soft crowns of different colored organdy, to match different frocks, and the operation was so simple as to be fool proof.

Another sketch gives an old fashioned crown, which if illustrated, combined with organdy in the form of a sash. Elizabeth Bennet might have worn this frock. Judging from Hugh Tompkins' illustrations of her, she probably did so. Even the hat is a modified poke bonnet.

These are the things in which the home dressmaker can triumph. They

White organdy fichu suitable for wear with many frocks. Hat of straw with organdy crown.

offer no difficulty to speak of, and deficiencies of cut can be cleverly hidden by a frill. It is a long time since we have been so pastoral.

There must be a one piece frock in every summer wardrobe, for travelling and war working, and in the big sketch there is an attractive version of it.

Organdy has invaded the province of taffeta—an organdy dyed a discreet navy blue, in order that it may be considered practical. As a matter of fact, though colored neckwear at first sight seems to promise a rest from the vigilant attention that such adjuncts of dress require, it crumples just as easily as the white, and will stand very little more wearing before it is necessary to renew it.

See in a frock of this kind that the chemise or collar worn with it is easily adjusted, or your life will become a veritable burden to you. One of the principal differences between a ready made one piece and the same garment put together by an expert, at every summer wardrobe, which it illustrates, is its elastic material, its charm, as one might suppose, but the cleverness with which such things as changeable collars and cuffs have been provided for.

Ostrich Trimming.

In a season which has offered few striking novelties, thus doing something to encourage the sponsors of standardization, the little shoulder cape is full of interest, and this interest is centred in the use of ostrich feather trimming, which it illustrates. The manager of the Paris Grand Opera revived Rameau's "Bastor and Polux" and the result was ostrich feather trimming on our summer wraps and evening dresses. This seeming paradox is typical of the minds of the Parisian designers. They snatch at straws coming from

Dark Fabrics and Quiet Old Time Fashions Concessions to an Insistent Demand for Uniformity

any direction, but the most frequent source of their inspiration is and always has been the stage. Current events run the theatre a close second, perhaps, but in peace times when the headlines are less sensational, the theatre is an easy first. So when the cavalier and ladies of the time of the Grand Monarque strutted, singing across the stage of the opera this spring, the astute designers noticed first of all the effect of their towering plumes on the public, and then they went out looking for ostrich feathers.

They stripped them and made them into trimming for chiffon wraps, like the sketch; they dyed them and twined them into wonderful exotic flowers for corsage bouquets; they descended to the obvious and put them on hats; they ascended to the original and edged the tops of boots with them. Rodier, the great fabric manufacturer, who watches all the straws as carefully as any designer, took them for the most important of his new fabrics. Ostrich feathers were launched, and they are now making their bid for popularity on this side of the ocean as the first of our autumn clothes.

Theatre Guides Fashion.

The theatre guides fashion in France, to be sure, but there is little prospect of its playing such a commanding role in this country. Even America should declare sartorial independence of France as a result of the war.

France, though she occupies such a large place in our hearts, is a small country, as we Americans understand it. It has been a comparatively easy matter for Paris to set the standard for the entire population interested in the mode. For New York to attempt to do the same thing, in the same degree, would be to foredoom the effort to failure.

New York might influence fashions, probably would play a greater part in their determination and selection than any other place in the western hemisphere; but that New York should control the dress of the country, down to the last detail of the length of the sleeve, the placing of the ribbon, as Paris does would be an impossibility. America is too big.

By the time New York had succeeded in distributing its something else would be in vogue. And then there is the natural jealousy in one section of the vast continent of another section; the tremendous climatic variation; the difference in the mode of living, and a thousand other less striking reasons. The style influence, launched in New York, would advance, waken Italy out of existence, stir the ripples of a pebble dropped in a pond lose themselves as they spread from the point of contact.

If the theatre guided fashion in our country as it does in Paris we might see an amusing revival of Watteau fashions, judging by the reception accorded to the Louis XV. gowns worn by Billie Burke in Henry Miller's revival of "The Marriage of Convenience." The town has gone mad over her hooded skirts and her powdered tresses. Every woman who sees them longs to try them on.

PROPER USE OF POTATOES AID TO HOOVER

No Hardship to Double Amount Eaten if War Recipes Are Used

IF teaching the housewives of the land food thrift and food conservation has proved a difficult task and one requiring no end of repetition and constant dining, even more difficult is the unteaching of some of these thrift lessons. That is to say, when once you have persuaded the housewife that there is virtue in economizing on one food staple of which there is a temporary deficiency, she is prepared to do without that article of diet world without end.

You remember perhaps that the winter before last there was a shortage of potatoes, and food experts did their best to teach the housewives to get along without potatoes for the time. In fact, one of the first pieces of nationwide instruction in food economy took the form of this guide to the housewife in doing without potatoes.

By dint of much repetition the lesson was learned and the desired results achieved and the potato famine was averted and the potato shortage passed. But to this day there are some folk who still make jokes about the shortage of potatoes, and there are here and there housewives who believe that there is still a virtue in using the potato substitute recipes brought out the winter before last.

There are potatoes aplenty at present and Uncle Sam wants us to use them. They are an almost perfect substitute for wheat.

"Ever to think that the Food Administration's requirements, regulations, suggestions and requests," says an official in that administration, "are constant, unchanging programmes is to miss the purpose of an organization which must and does respond to food situations that depend on many and complicated factors."

Eat More Potatoes.

Just now these factors are such that it is advisable for us to eat potatoes. Before six months we may be requested to go light on potatoes. That is conceivable, though not in the least probable. However, it is not within

the domain of the housewife to look ahead. All she is expected to do is to follow directions as they come. While she is asked to save wheat, she is urged to eat potatoes.

Lots of people are finding that they incur no hardship in doing their bit by saving wheat if they follow this rule: Instead of eating a slice of bread and a potato, eat two potatoes. There is really just as much nourishment in the potato as in the slice of bread. It is not a difficult habit to acquire.

But if you are wedded to bread, then you have potato bread. It is a little more trouble to prepare than plain white bread, and it calls for some flour, but it is patriotic, nevertheless.

Here is a Government rule for making it:

One or two cakes compressed yeast, 1 cup lukewarm water, 4 teaspoons salt, 3 tablespoons corn syrup, 2½ cups mashed potatoes, 7 cups of flour (more or less may be needed).

Mix as follows: Soften the yeast in the liquid and then add (1) salt, (2) syrup, (3) potato, and (4) enough of the flour to make a satisfactory dough. Mix and knead thoroughly. Let rise 3½ hours or until double in bulk. Knead out down the dough, add the remaining flour and let rise in pans until double in bulk. Bake 50 minutes to 1 hour.

It is possible to make very good bread by substituting three or even four cups of barley and corn flour for part of the wheat.

Here is a Government rule for making potato biscuits that is worth adding to your war recipe book:

One cup flour, 4 teaspoons baking powder, 1 teaspoon salt, 2 tablespoons fat, 1 cup mashed potatoes, ½ cup water or milk (about).

Sift together flour, baking powder and salt. Work in the fat with fork or knife. Add potato and mix thoroughly. Then add enough liquid to

make a soft dough. Roll the dough light to about ¼ inch in thickness. Cut into biscuits and bake twelve or fifteen minutes in hot oven.

War Time Chocolate Cake.

Did you know that excellent cake can be made with the addition of mashed potatoes? Here is a tested recipe for chocolate cake of this sort:

One-half cup fat, 1 cup sugar, 2 eggs slightly beaten, ¾ cup mashed potato, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 cup flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, ½ cup milk, ½ cup grated chocolate (melted over hot water). Cream the fat and sugar. Add eggs and potato. Add the flour, mixed with the baking powder and salt, alternately with the milk. Add the chocolate last. Bake in layers or muffin tins.

Here are some dishes suggested by the Food Administration to make use of potatoes without the addition of any flour. Obviously they were chosen because of their unusual palatableness. Try them and see whether you do not think they are a good selection.

The rule for Julienné potato with savory sauce calls for the following ingredients:

Three cups potato cut in strings, 2 small onions, chopped, 2 teaspoons mixed herbs, 2 tablespoons fat, 2 tablespoons flour, 1 pint milk, 2 teaspoons salt, ½ teaspoon pepper. Cut the raw peeled potatoes into strings

the size of macaroni. Cook them in boiling water twenty minutes. Brown the chopped onion and the herbs in fat. Add the flour, stirring thoroughly, add the milk, salt and pepper and cook in a double boiler twenty minutes. Strain and pour over the cooked potato. Sprinkle with grated cheese and serve.

Potato soufflé calls for four cups of hot mashed potatoes, 1 tablespoon of melted fat, 2 tablespoons of milk, 1 tablespoon of salt, ½ teaspoon of pep-

per, the yolks of 2 eggs and the whites of 2 eggs beaten stiff. Mix all but the whites of the eggs in the order given; beat thoroughly, fold in the stiffly beaten whites, pile in a baking dish and bake until the mixture puffs and is brown on the top.

To make Armenian potatoes mix the following ingredients: One-quarter of oil, 1 quart of raw diced potatoes, ¼ cup of tomato pulp, ½ cup water, 1½ teaspoons salt, 1 teaspoon paprika, or white pepper, 1 garlic, separated into cloves and each clove peeled and sliced, and 1 bunch of parsley or 1 tablespoon dried parsley. Mix and bake in a covered baking dish in a slow oven for forty minutes.

Meat Substitute Dishes.

Potato peanut beef may take the place of meat at luncheon or dinner. It calls for a pint of mashed potatoes, 1 cup ground peanuts or ¾ cup peanut butter, 2 teaspoons salt, ½ teaspoon pepper, ½ cup milk, 2 tablespoons fat and 2 eggs. Beat the entire mixture together and place in greased baking dish; set in a second pan containing hot water and bake in the oven until firm. Serve with potato sauce.

The following is the recipe for shepherd's pie:

Two cups cooked flaked fish, 2 tablespoons fat, 1 tablespoon flour, ½ teaspoon salt, ¼ teaspoon pepper, 1 cup beef soup broth, 2 cups mashed potato. Put flaked or flaked fish in baking dish. Add sauce made of the fat, flour, seasoning and broth. Cover top with mashed potato, brush with fat or cream and brown in a hot oven.

Potato and lima bean loaf is made as follows:

One and one-third cups cooked lima beans (not through sieve), 2 tablespoons fat, 1 tablespoon salt, 1-3 teaspoon sage, 2 cups rice potato, ½ cup milk, ½ teaspoon fat, ½ teaspoon fat for brushing. Mix first four ingredients and place in bottom of an oiled dish. Whip together the hot potato and the remaining ingredients. Place the mixture on top of the lima beans. Brush with fat. Bake in a quick oven. Serve with tomato sauce.

Smart cape coat of black taffeta to wear over lingerie frocks. The yoke and bottom of the coat are of black taffeta and the centre portion is of white embroidered in black. At the right is a summer one piece frock of taffeta and organdy, both in dark blue. Bright blue ribbons bind the tucked waist section and the novel collar.

